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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 GERALDINE BARABIN,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 SCAPA DRYER FABRICS, INC.,

14 Defendant.

CASE NO. C07-1454JLR

ORDER DENYING
DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

15 **I. INTRODUCTION**

16 This matter comes before the court on Defendant Scapa Dryer Fabrics, Inc.'s
17 ("Scapa") motion for summary judgment. (MSJ (Dkt. # 672).) Scapa argues that
18 Plaintiff Geraldine Barabin is unable to meet her burden of proof that Scapa products
19 proximately caused Henry Barabin's asbestos-related disease. (*See generally id.*) Ms.
20 Barabin opposes the motion. (Resp. (Dkt. # 685).) The court has considered the motion,
21 the parties' submissions in favor of and in opposition to the motion, the relevant portions

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1 of the record, and the applicable law. Being fully advised,¹ the court DENIES Scapa's
2 motion for summary judgment.

3 II. BACKGROUND

4 This case arises from Mr. Barabin's alleged exposure to asbestos-containing
5 products manufactured or sold by Scapa during his employment at the Crown-Zellerbach
6 paper mill in Camas, Washington ("the Camas paper mill" or "the paper mill"). (*See*
7 MSJ at 2; Resp. at 2-3.) The court has extensively detailed the factual and procedural
8 background of this case in numerous prior orders. (*See, e.g.*, 12/12/07 Order (Dkt. # 63);
9 8/18/09 Order (Dkt. # 200); 12/10/10 1st Order (Dkt. # 550); 12/10/10 2d Order (Dkt.
10 # 551); 2/12/18 Order (Dkt. # 698).) Thus, in this order, the court recounts only the facts
11 salient to Scapa's instant motion.

12 The Camas paper mill consists of several buildings, plants, power stations, and
13 warehouses that assist in the making, packaging, and shipping of paper. (MacKenzie
14 Decl. (Dkt. # 673) ¶ 9, Ex. 9 at 10.) There are around 16 paper machines at the paper
15 mill. (Good Decl. (Dkt. # 686) ¶ 12, Ex. 10 ("Barabin Tr. Testimony") at 12:16-18.)
16 These paper machines utilized dryer felts: absorbent, fabric-like material that were used
17 to move wet sheets of paper through the drying end of a paper machine. (*Id.* at 11:9-17.)
18 It is undisputed that Scapa manufactured and sold both asbestos-containing and non-
19 asbestos-containing dryer felts to the Camas paper mill. (MacKenzie Decl. ¶ 11, Ex. 11

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21 ¹ Both parties request oral argument (*see* MSJ at 1; Resp. at 1), but the court finds that
22 oral argument would not be helpful to the court's disposition of the motion, *see* Local Rules
W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(4). Accordingly, the court denies the parties' request.

1 at 4-5; *see also* MSJ at 4-5 (“It is undisputed that during 1964-1982 Scapa sold 505 dryer
2 felts to the Camas Mill.”).) Scapa dryer felts were utilized on many of the paper
3 machines at varying time periods during Mr. Barabin’s time there.²

4 Mr. Barabin worked at the Camas paper mill in several positions from 1968 to
5 2001. (Barabin Tr. Testimony at 9:8-12.) During these 33 years, the jobs required him to
6 work on and around several of the paper machines at the mill. (*Id.* at 21:12-19,
7 55:21-56:3.) Around 1974, Mr. Barabin became a “spare hand,” a job that required him
8 to “work[] on whatever machine that needs you.” (*Id.* at 28:2-4.) Part of his duties
9 included using high pressured hoses to blow the dust and paper out of the dryers when the
10 paper sheets were caught in the dryer. (*Id.* at 28:12-29:24.) That same year, Mr. Barabin
11 transitioned to the role of “fifth hand” on paper machines 7 and 8, although he also
12 worked on machines 4, 5, and 6. (*Id.* at 32:13-33:5.) As a fifth hand, he would
13 participate in dryer felt change-outs, which required him to cut old dryer felts out of the
14 machine and fasten new ones in their place, particularly during machine shutdowns; he
15 also used compressed air to clean out the dry end about once or twice a day. (*Id.* at
16 34:14-18, 37:14-38:6.) Mr. Barabin later worked as a “fourth hand” on paper machine 8,
17 where he was also responsible for cleaning and assisting in dryer felt change-outs on

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19 ² Thirteen asbestos-containing dryer felts were utilized on paper machine 1 from 1968 to
20 1982; 37 were utilized on paper machine 2 from 1966 to 1982; 1 was utilized on paper machine 3
21 in 1973; 3 were used on paper machine 4 from 1973 to 1974; 73 were used on paper machine 5
22 from 1967 to 1977; 41 were used on paper machine 6 from 1965 to 1982; 5 were used on paper
machine 7 from 1974 to 1981; 19 were used on paper machine 8 from 1965 to 1982; 2 were used
on paper machine 9 from 1973 to 1975; 16 were used on paper machine 15 from 1967 to 1978;
and 19 were utilized on paper machine 16 from 1964 to 1972. (Good Decl. ¶ 15, Ex. 13 (“Scapa
Sales Chart”) at 1-3.)

1 machines 4, 5, and 6. (*Id.* at 43:6-8; 44:6-7, 45:16-46:16; *see also* Good Decl. ¶ 16, Ex.
2 14 at 1.)

3 Around 1976, Mr. Barabin became a winderman on paper machines 7 and 8. (*Id.*
4 at 46:19-21.) As a winderman, Mr. Barabin experienced a felt break, where a dryer felt
5 broke into pieces. (*Id.* at 49:9-19.) After collecting the felt pieces, Mr. Barabin used
6 compressed air to blow down the machine. (*Id.* at 50:3-8.) He continued to participate in
7 changing the dryer felts and cleaning the dryers. (*Id.* at 51:9-19.) Afterwards, Mr.
8 Barabin worked as a filterman and checked the “save-all” filters on all of the paper
9 machines. (*Id.* at 53:6-8.) In 1984, he transitioned to working on paper machine 20
10 located in another building, where he stayed until his retirement in 2001. (*Id.* at
11 56:18-20, 57:9-11.)

12 Mr. Barabin remembers the Scapa brand in relation to the dryer felts while he was
13 at the mill. (*Id.* at 62:1-4; *see also* MacKenzie Decl. ¶ 10, Ex. 10 at 163:4-7.)
14 Specifically, he “knew [the Camas paper mill] had felts that were Scapa felts.” (Barabin
15 Tr. Testimony at 62:6-7.) However, he has “no particular knowledge of what particular
16 felt we [were] putting on that particular machine.” (*Id.* at 62:7-8.) Mr. Barabin’s co-
17 workers recall similar details: at most, they recall the name “Scapa” while working at the
18 mill but cannot testify that they or Mr. Barabin personally worked with a Scapa product.
19 (*See* MacKenzie Decl. ¶ 15, Ex. 15 (“Henry Dep.”) at 58:17-19; *id.* ¶ 16, Ex. 16
20 (“Sanders Dep.”) at 209:3-5; *id.* ¶ 12, Ex. 12 (“Mickes Dep.”) at 167:20-169:16.)

21 Mr. Barabin was diagnosed with malignant pleural mesothelioma on or about
22 November 1, 2006. (Good Decl. ¶ 11, Ex. 9 at 22.) This case originally went to trial in

1 November of 2009, and a jury returned a verdict in favor of the Barabins. (See Judgment
2 (Dkt. # 355).) Scapa, along with then-defendant AstenJohnson, Inc. (“AstenJohnson”),³
3 appealed. (See AstenJohnson Not. of Appeal (Dkt. # 443); Scapa Not. of Appeal (Dkt.
4 # 565).) While the appeal was pending, Mr. Barabin passed away on March 30, 2012.
5 (Good Decl. ¶ 10, Ex. 8 at 1; MacKenzie Decl. ¶ 3, Ex. 3, at 1.) Subsequently, the Ninth
6 Circuit remanded the matter for a new trial. See *Barabin v. AstenJohnson, Inc.*, 740 F.3d
7 457, 467 (9th Cir. 2014) (en banc).

8 III. ANALYSIS

9 A. Legal Standard

10 Summary judgment is appropriate if the evidence shows “that there is no genuine
11 dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.”
12 Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); see *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986); *Galen v.*
13 *Cty. of L.A.*, 477 F.3d 652, 658 (9th Cir. 2007). A fact is “material” if it might affect the
14 outcome of the case. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A
15 factual dispute is “‘genuine’ only if there is sufficient evidence for a reasonable fact
16 finder to find for the non-moving party.” *Far Out Prods., Inc. v. Oskar*, 247 F.3d 986,
17 992 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 248-49).

18 The moving party bears the initial burden of showing there is no genuine dispute
19 of material fact and that it is entitled to prevail as a matter of law. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at
20 323. If the moving party does not bear the ultimate burden of persuasion at trial, it can

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22 ³ Ms. Barabin and AstenJohnson recently reached settlement. (See Not. of Settlement
(Dkt. # 694).)

1 show the absence of such a dispute in two ways: (1) by producing evidence negating an
2 essential element of the nonmoving party's case, or (2) by showing that the nonmoving
3 party lacks evidence of an essential element of its claim or defense. *Nissan Fire &*
4 *Marine Ins. Co. v. Fritz Cos.*, 210 F.3d 1099, 1106 (9th Cir. 2000). If the moving party
5 meets its burden of production, the burden then shifts to the nonmoving party to identify
6 specific facts from which a fact finder could reasonably find in the nonmoving party's
7 favor. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324; *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252.

8 The court is "required to view the facts and draw reasonable inferences in the light
9 most favorable to the [nonmoving] party." *Scott v. Harris*, 550 U.S. 372, 378 (2007).

10 The court may not weigh evidence or make credibility determinations in analyzing a
11 motion for summary judgment because those are "jury functions, not those of a judge."
12 *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 249-50. Nevertheless, the nonmoving party "must do more than
13 simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts Where
14 the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the
15 nonmoving party, there is no genuine issue for trial." *Scott*, 550 U.S. at 380 (internal
16 quotation marks omitted) (quoting *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*,
17 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986)).

18 **B. Scapa's Motion for Summary Judgment**

19 Scapa maintains Ms. Barabin cannot meet her burden of proof that Mr. Barabin's
20 mesothelioma was proximately caused by exposure to Scapa's asbestos-containing
21 products. (MSJ at 1.) Specifically, Scapa argues that Ms. Barabin "cannot establish that
22 Mr. Barabin worked in proximity to any products manufactured by Scapa—let alone that

1 those products actually contained asbestos-containing material.”⁴ (*Id.* at 10; *see also id.*
2 at 8 (qualifying Ms. Barabin’s evidence as “at best, purely speculative”).) Ms. Barabin
3 opposes the motion for two reasons. As a threshold matter, Ms. Barabin contends that
4 Scapa’s motion for summary judgment is “essentially the same motion” it filed before the
5 case was remanded and thus should be stricken or denied outright. (Resp. at 10-12.) On
6 the merits, Ms. Barabin argues that there is sufficient circumstantial evidence to allow a
7 reasonable jury to infer that Mr. Barabin more likely than not was exposed to Scapa’s
8 asbestos-containing dryer felts. (*Id.* at 12-19.) The court addresses the threshold issue
9 before turning to the merits of the motion.

10 1. Successive Motion for Summary Judgment

11 At the outset, the court permits Scapa’s second motion for summary judgment.
12 District courts have discretion to entertain second motions for summary judgment.
13 *Hoffman v. Tonnemacher*, 593 F.3d 908, 909 (9th Cir. 2010). “[A]llowing a party to file
14 a second motion for summary judgment is logical, and it fosters the ‘just, speedy, and
15 inexpensive’ resolution of suits.” *Id.* at 911 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 1). However, courts
16 should “weed out frivolous or simply repetitive motions.” *Id.* In *Hoffman v.*
17 *Tonnemacher*, the Ninth Circuit determined that the district court did not abuse its
18 discretion in allowing a successive summary judgment motion after a mistrial; the new
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20 ⁴ Scapa also argues that summary judgment should be granted because Ms. Barabin’s
21 causation expert testimonies are inadmissible for the reasons articulated in its motions to
22 exclude. (MSJ at 13.) The court has since resolved Scapa’s motions to exclude and held that
two of Ms. Barabin’s causation expert testimonies—those by Dr. Carl Brodtkin and Dr. David
Tarin—are admissible. (*See generally* 2/12/18 Order.) Thus, the court rejects this alternative
ground for summary judgment.

1 deposition of an expert witness, the testimony at trial, and the addition of a new witness
2 “expanded the factual record beyond what it had been at the time of the pretrial summary
3 judgment motion.” *Id.* at 912.

4 The same is true here. Before the first jury trial, Scapa filed a motion for summary
5 judgment relying on the factual record available at that time. (*See* 7/2/09 MSJ (Dkt.
6 # 152).) But since then, the record has been altered dramatically. Trial testimony—
7 unavailable at the time of the pretrial summary judgment motion for obvious reasons—is
8 now a part of the record. (*See* Resp. at 3-8 (relying on the “testimony of Mr. Barabin” as
9 sufficient to defeat summary judgment); *see generally* Barabin Tr. Testimony.)

10 Moreover, new depositions of the expert witnesses have been taken (*see* Good Decl. ¶ 24,
11 Ex. 22 (including Dr. Brodtkin’s deposition taken on November 10, 2017)), and new
12 expert witnesses have been added (*see id.* ¶¶ 17-22, Exs. 15-20 (including reports and
13 depositions of three new expert witnesses: Dr. Steve Compton, Mr. Christopher
14 DePasquale, and Dr. Richard Cohen)).⁵ As in *Hoffman*, these additions “expanded the
15 factual record beyond what it had been at the time of the pretrial summary judgment
16 motion.” *See* 593 F.3d at 912. Thus, although the court recognizes that Scapa’s
17 arguments in the two motions for summary judgment—and indeed, even some of the
18 language used—are largely identical, the court will consider the merits of Scapa’s
19 motion.

21 ⁵ Dr. Richard Cohen is not the same individual as Dr. Kenneth Cohen, who was the
22 expert-at-issue during the previous trial and the subsequent appeal. (*Compare* Good Decl. ¶ 21,
Ex. 19 at 1 (Dr. Richard Cohen report), *with Barabin*, 740 F.3d at 461 (describing the Barabins’
expert Kenneth Cohen).)

1 2. Causation

2 Under Washington law,⁶ “the plaintiff must establish a reasonable connection
3 between the injury, the product causing the injury, and the manufacturer of the product.”
4 *Lockwood v. AC & S, Inc.*, 744 P.2d 605, 612 (Wash. 1987). “This does not mean,
5 however, that a plaintiff . . . must personally identify the manufacturers of asbestos
6 products to which he was exposed in order to recover from those manufacturers.” *Id.*
7 Instead, “[c]ircumstantial evidence may establish the entire basis for recovery.”
8 *Lockwood v. AC & S, Inc.*, 722 P.2d 826, 840 (Wash. App. Ct. 1986); *see also Van Hout*
9 *v. Celotex Corp.*, 853 P.2d 908, 913 (Wash. 1993) (“Plaintiffs in asbestos cases may rely
10 on circumstantial evidence that the manufacturer’s products were the source of their
11 asbestos exposure.”).

12 In *Lockwood v. AC & S, Inc.*, although there was “no direct evidence that [the
13 plaintiff] worked with or near [the defendant’s product] on the [vessel],” 744 P.2d at 611,
14 the court nonetheless held that “it would be reasonable for a factfinder to infer that [the
15 plaintiff] was exposed to [the defendant’s] product,” *id.* at 612. First, witness testimony
16 established that the defendant’s product was used on the ship where the plaintiff worked.
17 *Id.* Second, expert testimony showed that the asbestos on the vessel drifted in the air and
18 could be inhaled by bystanders. *Id.* Thus, the court concluded that “the
19 evidence . . . presented creates a reasonable inference that [the plaintiff] was exposed to
20 [the defendant’s] product.” *Id.* at 613. The *Lockwood* court then laid out several factors

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22 ⁶ Because federal jurisdiction is based on the diversity of the parties, the court applies
Washington state substantive law. *Erie R.R. Co. v. Tompkins*, 304 U.S. 64, 78 (1938).

1 that a court should consider in determining whether exposure to a particular defendant's
2 asbestos product actually caused the plaintiff's injury. *Id.* These include: (1) the
3 "plaintiff's proximity to the asbestos product when the exposure occurred"; (2) "the
4 expanse of the work site where asbestos fibers were released"; (3) "the extent of time that
5 the plaintiff was exposed to the product"; (4) "the types of asbestos products to which the
6 plaintiff was exposed"; (5) "the ways in which such products were handled and used";
7 and (6) "the evidence presented as to medical causation of the plaintiff's particular
8 disease." *Id.*

9 Scapa focuses the majority of its briefing on the first and second *Lockwood* factors
10 of proximity and expanse of the work site. (*See generally* MSJ.) Viewing the facts and
11 drawing inferences in the light most favorable to Ms. Barabin, the court finds that Ms.
12 Barabin provides enough evidence on these first two, as well as the remaining, *Lockwood*
13 factors for a reasonable trier of fact to find in her favor.

14 First, Ms. Barabin provides evidence showing Mr. Barabin's proximity to the
15 asbestos-containing dryer felts. More specifically, Ms. Barabin shows the number of
16 Scapa asbestos-containing dryer felts used on each paper machine that Mr. Barabin
17 worked in close proximity to. For instance, in 1974 and 1975, Mr. Barabin worked as a
18 spare hand, a fifth hand, and a fourth hand on paper machine 6. (Barabin Tr. Testimony
19 at 28:2-4, 32:13-33:5; Good Decl. ¶ 16, Ex. 14 at 1.) From 1965 to 1982, Scapa provided
20 41 dryer felts that contained asbestos fibers to be used on that machine. (Scapa Sales
21 Chart at 1.) Similarly, from 1974 to 1984, Mr. Barabin worked on paper machine 8.
22 (Barabin Tr. Testimony at 32:13-33:5, 46:19-21.) During that time, Scapa sold 19

1 asbestos-containing dryer felts to be used on machine 8. (Scapa Sales Chart at 1.) It
2 bears repeating that while Mr. Barabin was working on these machines, his job
3 responsibilities included manipulating, cutting, and cleaning the dryer felt used.⁷ (See
4 Barabin Tr. Testimony at 34:14-18, 37:14-38:6, 50:3-8, 51:9-19.) As in *Lockwood*, the
5 sales records here provide sufficient evidence from which a reasonable juror can infer
6 that Scapa's products were used, not only in the Camas paper mill, but also in close
7 proximity to where Mr. Barabin worked.

8 To defeat proximity, Scapa points to the fact that neither Mr. Barabin nor his
9 co-employees could testify that they personally worked with Scapa dryer felts. (MSJ at
10 10, 12.) But such direct testimony is not necessary. See *Lockwood*, 722 P.2d at 840
11 (recognizing that to require specific identification of the defendant products "would
12 present an impossible task for plaintiffs in most asbestos cases"). Although the
13 *Lockwood* court relied on witness testimony, see 744 P.2d at 612, the court did not
14 indicate that witness testimony is required, or that it is the only way in which a plaintiff
15 can demonstrate proximity, see *id.* Here, the Scapa sales records do what the witness
16 testimony did in *Lockwood*—provide sufficient evidence from which a trier of fact could
17 reasonably find that Scapa's asbestos-containing dryer felts were used in Mr. Barabin's

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19 ⁷ Scapa maintains that there is no evidence that Mr. Barabin was "regularly involved in
20 the replacement of dryer felts." (Reply (Dkt. # 687) at 8.) But Mr. Barabin's testimony indicates
21 that he was involved with dryer felts fairly often. For instance, he testified that he would use
22 compressed air to clean out the dry end of a paper machine, from "below inside the dyers,
between the felts and the drums," about once or twice a day when there was a paper break.
(Barabin Tr. Testimony at 29:20-24, 37:14-38:1.) This cleaning is in addition to Mr. Barabin's
manipulation of dryer felts in change-outs, some machine shutdowns, and felt breaks. (See, e.g.,
id. at 27:3-5, 35:15-23, 39:7-9.)

1 work environment, namely the very machines that Mr. Barabin worked on. *See id.*; (*see*
2 *generally* Scapa Sales Chart.) Even if witness testimony were required, Mr. Barabin
3 testified to the paper mill having Scapa felts. (*See* Barabin Tr. Testimony at 62:6-7.)
4 Moreover, two of Mr. Barabin's co-workers recognized the name "Scapa" in association
5 with dryer felts used on the paper machines.⁸ (*See* Mickes Dep. at 167:20-25; Sanders
6 Dep. at 190:1-17.) These testimonies, in combination with the sales records information,
7 are sufficient to preclude summary judgment.

8 Scapa also relies on the fact that in totality, the majority of its dryer felts sold to
9 the Camas paper mill did not contain asbestos. (*See* MSJ at 12 ("[I]f Mr. Barabin worked
10 in proximity to Scapa products, it is just as likely (if not more likely) that they were
11 non-asbestos containing products as it is that they were asbestos-containing.")) Scapa
12 correctly calculates that a slight majority of its dryer felts at the paper mill—54.65% to be
13 exact—did not contain asbestos. (*See* Scapa Sales Chart.) But the court disagrees that
14 this one statistic means no reasonable jury could infer that Mr. Barabin worked in
15 proximity to Scapa asbestos-containing dryer felts. Again, the machine-specific evidence
16 is illustrative here. For instance, Mr. Barabin worked with the dryer felts on paper
17 machine 5 around 1974. (Barabin Tr. Testimony at 32:13-33:5, 43:6-8; 44:6-7, 45:16-
18 46:16.) Between 1967 and 1977, 73 out of 75, or 97.33% of Scapa dryer felts on paper

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20 ⁸ Mr. Mickes was asked whether he "recognize[s] a company by the name of Scapa," to
21 which he responded "I recognize that name . . . I recognize that name when I worked on
22 [machines] 7 and 8, I believe." (Mickes Dep. at 167:20-25.) Mr. Sanders was asked the same
question and responded "[Y]eah, I do. I think they had dryer felts . . . seems like that's what I
seen, like I remember them." (Sanders Dep. at 190:4-5, 190:16-17.)

1 machine 5 contained asbestos. (*See* Scapa Sales Chart at 1.) A reasonable juror could
2 infer that, although only 45.35% of Scapa dryer felts at the mill contained asbestos, Mr.
3 Barabin was exposed during his work on individual machines, such as paper machine 5,
4 which used a much higher percentage of Scapa asbestos-containing dryer felts.

5 Scapa then argues that the second *Lockwood* factor—expanse of the work site—
6 weighs in its favor. (*See* MSJ at 10-11.) Because the Camas paper mill is sprawling,
7 “spanning 660 acres” and consisting of various mills and structures, Scapa maintains that
8 selling asbestos-containing dryer felts to the mill is insufficient by itself to illustrate close
9 proximity. (*See id.*) If Ms. Barabin’s evidence only showed that Scapa products were
10 housed somewhere in the Camas paper mill without any reference to where those
11 products were placed in relation to Mr. Barabin, the court would agree with Scapa. But
12 Ms. Barabin proffers more: The sales records indicate the particular machine that each
13 Scapa dryer felt went to, and Mr. Barabin testified that he worked on those particular
14 machines while Scapa asbestos-containing dryer felts were used. (*See* Scapa Sales Chart;
15 Barabin Tr. Testimony.) Thus, drawing all reasonable inferences in favor of Ms.
16 Barabin, the overall size of the Camas paper mill is immaterial given the evidence that
17 Scapa products were used on the very machines that Mr. Barabin worked on.

18 The evidence presented for the remaining *Lockwood* factors also favors Ms.
19 Barabin, such that a genuine issue of material fact remains for trial. *See* 744 P.2d at 613.
20 Mr. Barabin testified about the many years that he spent working with the dryer felts that
21 were used in the various machines. (*See* Barabin Tr. Testimony at 9:8-12.) Moreover, he
22 details the numerous ways in which his work required him to manipulate the dryer felts,

1 including changing them in and out of the machines, cutting them, disposing of them, and
2 blowing compressed air at them during the cleaning process. (*See id.* at 28:12-29:2,
3 34:14-18, 37:14-38:6, 49:9-19, 51:9-19.) This evidence demonstrates both Mr. Barabin's
4 regular and frequent presence in areas with Scapa asbestos-containing dryer felts and the
5 number of ways in which these dryer felts were handled and used.

6 The court additionally considers the expert testimony presented regarding the
7 asbestos dust released from dryer felts and the effect that release had on those who
8 worked with the dryer felts. Ms. Barabin presents the report of Dr. Steven Compton, a
9 physicist and microscopist with experience in testing asbestos-containing products for
10 fiber release. (Good Decl. ¶ 17, Ex. 15 ("Compton Rep.") at 1.) Dr. Compton concludes
11 that "asbestos-containing dryer felts can release asbestos fibers when handled, blown
12 with compressed air, or cut." (*Id.* at 2.) Combining this knowledge with Mr. Barabin's
13 occupational history, Dr. Compton opines that "the handling of asbestos-containing dryer
14 felts, cleaning with compressed air, and cutting of dryer felts performed by Mr. Henry
15 Barabin and by others in his presence would have released asbestos fibers into the air."
16 (*Id.* at 2-3.) Ms. Barabin also presents the testimony of Mr. Christopher DePasquale, an
17 industrial hygienist. (Good Decl. ¶ 19, Ex. 17 ("DePasquale Rep.") at 1.) Given his
18 review of Mr. Barabin's occupational history, he concludes that:

19 Mr. Barabin would have had significant exposures to asbestos because of his
20 work on and with paper machines. These exposures would have occurred
21 when he personally cut dryer felts, assisted in the change-out of dryer felts,
22 and when he or others used compressed air to clean off dryer felts.

Id. at 7.

1 Ms. Barabin also presents the testimony of Dr. Carl Brodtkin, who concluded that
2 the asbestos exposure at the Camas paper mill was a substantial factor in causing Mr.
3 Barabin's mesothelioma. (See Good Decl. ¶ 23, Ex. 21 ("Brodtkin Rep.")). Although Dr.
4 Brodtkin reports that Mr. Barabin experienced bystander asbestos exposure as a laborer at
5 a Texas refinery between 1964 and 1968, Dr. Brodtkin states that Mr. Barabin's "most
6 prominent exposure" to asbestos came during his time as a paper mill worker, with
7 "prominent direct exposure to asbestos" through "regular manipulation of . . . dry felts."
8 (*Id.* at 22.) Based on studies associating manipulation of dryer felts with significant
9 levels of airborne asbestos fibers, studies finding significantly elevated risks of asbestos-
10 related cancers among workers in the paper mill industry, and Mr. Barabin's frequent
11 observations of visibly dusty conditions at the mill (*id.* at 23), Dr. Brodtkin concludes that
12 Mr. Barabin's "mesothelioma was caused by his occupational exposure to asbestos as a
13 career paper machine worker and laborer . . . with a prior exposure to asbestos as a
14 refinery laborer" (*id.* at 30). Because "dryer felts represent an historically important
15 source of respirable asbestos exposure," Dr. Brodtkin determines that Mr. Barabin's
16 exposure to asbestos fibers through dryer felts "is a substantial contributing factor in his
17 development of malignant mesothelioma." (*Id.* at 7.)⁹ All of the above experts'
18 testimony, combined with the sales records evidence locating Scapa's dryer felts at
19 certain machines and Mr. Barabin's testimony of working on those same machines,

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22 ⁹ This conclusion comes from Dr. Brodtkin's "Updated Report for Mr. Henry Barabin" on
March 24, 2009. This report is included in the same exhibit as Dr. Brodtkin's original report, and
thus, the court cites to the internal document page number.

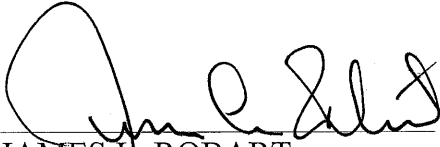
1 constitute sufficient evidence upon which a fact finder could reasonably find in Ms.
2 Barabin's favor on the issue of causation. *See Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324.

3 The court recognizes that Ms. Barabin's evidence is far from conclusive. Ms.
4 Barabin does not present any direct evidence linking Scapa's asbestos-containing dryer
5 felts to Mr. Barabin's exposure to asbestos, but the circumstantial evidence she provides,
6 when viewed in the light most favorable to her, is sufficient for a reasonable juror to infer
7 that Mr. Barabin was exposed to Scapa asbestos-containing dryer felts during the 30-plus
8 years he worked at the Camas paper mill and that this exposure proximately caused Mr.
9 Barabin's mesothelioma. Because there is sufficient evidence that a reasonable fact
10 finder may find for Ms. Barabin on this issue, Scapa is not entitled to prevail as a matter
11 of law, and the court denies summary judgment.

12 IV. CONCLUSION

13 For the foregoing reasons, the court DENIES Scapa's motion for summary
14 judgment (Dkt. # 672).

15 Dated this ^{no}22 day of February, 2018.

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17 JAMES L. ROBART
18 United States District Judge
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